

ABSTRACT

A system controls security devices to enhance the security of self-checkout stations. The system includes security agent applications executing in the terminals of a plurality of self-checkout stations. The security agent software generates and transmits event messages regarding security events occurring at a station to a server. The server assigns a priority level to the event messages and sends the prioritized event messages as alert messages to a security controller. The security controller is coupled to security cameras, image data storage devices, and image data display devices and generates control messages for these devices in accordance with the alert messages received. The control messages for the security cameras operate the cameras to zoom, focus, tilt, or pan with respect to the events occurring at a station. Image data storage devices are coupled by the controller to cameras for the purpose of recording image data from the station in either a continuous or still image manner. The controller may insert visual alert indicators in the video stream of a camera directed to a monitor or an audible tone in the audio of the video stream to alert security personnel to the display of ongoing security events at a station. The controller may also be coupled to a paging system to generate pages for security personnel that identify a station where a security event is occurring so the security officer may observe the station during the incident.